

CLAIMS

1. A collating device for sheet material comprising a collating station having a pair of guide members for receiving sheets to be collated through an opening therebetween, first conveyor means for conveying sheets consecutively into the collating station and second conveyor means for conveying a collated stack of sheets out of the collating station, support means biased towards a position for supporting sheets in the collating station away from the second conveyor means, and an actuator member movable to urge a collated stack of sheets towards the second conveyor means against the bias of the support means.

2. A collating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support means is a flexible member mounted adjacent the opening between the guide members.

3. A collating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator member is mounted across the guide members to form a closed end of the collating station.

~~4. A collating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support means is arranged to support sheets in the collating station in a position between the first conveyor means and the second conveyor means.~~

5. A collating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first conveyor means is a nip between a first and a second roller or set of rollers and the second conveyor means is a

nip between the second and a third roller or set of rollers.

5 6. A collating device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the support means is arranged to support sheets in the collating station in a position resting against the second roller or set of rollers.

10 7. A collating device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the actuator member is movable towards the opening between the guide members so as to urge a collated stack of sheets against the second roller or set of rollers.

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